UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/824,900	04/02/2001	Kenneth H. Abbott	294438011US1	1607

25096 7590 06/20/2003

PERKINS COIE LLP
PATENT-SEA
P.O. BOX 1247
SEATTLE, WA 98111-1247

EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, TAM V	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2172	

DATE MAILED: 06/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/824,900	ABBOTT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tam V Nguyen	2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 April 2001* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-69* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-69* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) *6 & 7* .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-69 are pending in this office action. Claims 1-69 are presented in this office action. This office action is in response to the filing dated 04/02/01.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The reference cited in the IDS, PTO-1449, Paper No. 6 and 7, have been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-22, 67-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang Balbonado (US 2002/0147880A1).

With respect to claims 1 and 67, Baldonado discloses upon entry of one or more keywords 540, and/or context information, a user would select, for example, with the click of a mouse, the perform search, or "OK" button 550. At this time, as previously discussed, the query development circuit 550 will assemble the context information and keyword(s) for forwarding to the query management circuit 350, (pages 5, 2nd col., lines 32-38) as step of ***receiving a user search request.*** This context information would allow a search for the keywords within the "current" portion or directory of the trademark portion of the example.com web site. Alternatively, a combination of web sites could be specified as the context information. For example, a user may specify the context information as "www.example.com" and "www.example2.com." In general, any information pointing to one or more locations in a distributed network can be used as the context information, (pages 3, 2nd col., lines 26-36) as step of ***identifying context information for the user***. The combination of the keyword and context information is then submitted, via link 50 and the network 200, to the search server 300. The search server 300 receives the query and context, via I/O interface 330, in the query management circuit 350. The query management circuit 350 forwards the query and context information to the crawl search management circuit 360. The crawl search management circuit analyzes the received keywords and context information. In accordance with the context information, the crawl search management circuit 360

determines the crawl boundaries corresponding to the context information. These crawl boundaries regulate the breadth of the crawl search within the distributed network, (pages 3, 2nd col., lines 36-51) as step of ***determining search criteria corresponding to the user search request by combining the user search request and the current context information.***

As to claim 2, Baldonado further discloses performing search of an information source using the search criteria, (Pages 1, 1st col., lines 36-43).

As to claim 3, Baldonado further discloses wherein identifying context information for the user comprises identifying current context information for the user, (Pages 3, 2nd col., lines 21-51).

As to claim 4, Baldonado further discloses wherein the determining comprises generating a product interest characterization having a plurality of fields, wherein one or more of the plurality of fields includes data, received from the user, corresponding to the user search request, and wherein another one or more of the plurality of fields includes data, received from a context awareness model, that represents the context information for the user, (Pages 3, 2nd col., lines 21-51).

As to claim 5, Baldonado further discloses wherein receiving the user search request comprises receiving, as at least part of the user search request, one or more keywords, (Pages 3, 2nd col., lines 21-51).

As to claim 6, Baldonado further discloses wherein receiving the user search request comprises receiving, as at least part of the user search request, authorization information that indicates how much data can be provided to difference classes of production information providers, (Pages 5, 2nd col., lines 32-51).

As to claims 7 and 69, Baldonado further discloses communicating the search criteria to one or more search components, (Pages 5, 2nd col., lines 32-51); receiving search results from at least one of the one or more search components, (Pages 5, 2nd col., lines 32-51); and presenting the search result to the user, (Pages 5, 2nd col., lines 32-51).

As to claim 9, Baldonado further discloses determining an appropriate time to present the search results, (Pages 5, 2nd col., lines 32-51); and wherein representing the search results to the user comprises waiting until the appropriate time to present the search results to the user, (Pages 5, 2nd col., lines 32-51).

As to claim 10, Baldonado further discloses wherein the user search request is a request to retrieve information regarding one or more of a product or a service, (Pages 5, 2nd col., lines 32-51).

As to claims 11 and 52, Baldonado further discloses wherein the user search request is a request to obtain a product, (Pages 5, 2nd col., lines 32-51).

As to claim 12, Baldonado further discloses herein the search criteria is to be submitted to one or more search components via a network, and wherein the product is to be returned to the user via the network, (Pages 5, 2nd col., lines 32-51).

As to claims 14, 46, 56, and 68, Baldonado further discloses wherein the context information comprises information regarding one or more of: the user's physical environment, the user's mental environment, the user's computing environment, and the user's data environment, (Pages 3, 2nd col., lines 21-51),

As to claims 15 and 56, Baldonado further discloses wherein the context information comprises information regarding two or more of: the user's physical environment, the user's mental environment, the user's computing environment, and the user's data environment, (Pages 3, 2nd col., lines 21-51).

As to claims 16, 47 and 57, Baldonado further discloses wherein the context information comprises physical environment information pertaining to one or more of: the user's present location and the current time

As to claims 17, 48 and 58, Baldonado further discloses wherein the context information comprises mental environment information pertaining to one or more of: the user's likely intentions, the user's preferences, and the user's current station, (Pages 3, 2nd col., lines 21-51).

As to claims 18, 49, and 59, Baldonado further discloses wherein the context information comprises computing environment information pertaining to one or more of: computing capabilities of a client computer being used by the user, available I/O devices of the clients, processing capabilities of the client, and available storage space on the client, (Pages 4, 2nd col., lines 16-28).

As to claims 19, 50, and 60, Baldonado further discloses wherein the context information comprises data environment information pertaining to data and software resources on a client computer being used by the user, (Pages 6, 2nd col., lines 36-54).

As to claim 20, Baldonado further discloses generating a profile corresponding to the user, (Pages 3, 2nd col. line 12-26); and saving the search criteria associated with the search request as corresponding to the profile, (Pages 3, 1st col. lines 14-37)

As to claim 21, Baldonado further discloses displaying a form to the user for entry of parameters of the search request, (Pages 3, 2nd col., lines 21-51); and automatically populating fields of the form with data based on the context information, (Pages 3, 2nd col., lines 21-51).

As to claim 22, Baldonado further discloses not displaying the fields of the forms that are automatically populated based on the context information, (Pages 3, 2nd col., lines 21-51).

With respect to claim 45, Baldonado discloses the combination of the keyword and context information is then submitted, via link 50 and the network 200, to the search server 300. The search server 300 receives the query and context, via I/O interface 330, in the query management circuit 350. The query management circuit 350 forwards the query and context information to the crawl search management circuit 360. The crawl search management circuit analyzes the received keywords and context information. In accordance with the context information, the crawl search management circuit 360 determines the crawl boundaries corresponding to the context information. These crawl boundaries regulate the breadth of the crawl search within the distributed network, (pages 3, 2nd col., lines 36-51) as step of ***receiving a search request, wherein the search request is based at least in part on both user defined parameters and current context information of the user.***

With respect to claim 51, Baldonado discloses upon entry of one or more keywords 540, and/or context information, a user would select, for example, with the click of a mouse, the perform search, or "OK" button 550. At this time, as previously discussed, the query development circuit 550 will assemble the context information and keyword(s) for forwarding to the query management circuit 350, (pages 5, 2nd col., lines 32-38) as step of ***receiving a user search request.*** A user, via user input device 180, then enters one or more keywords into the keyword entry dialog box. Alternatively, instead of a user entering one or more keywords through a keyword entry dialog box, the browser interface 140 can detect highlighted or selected portions within a document, such as a web page, displayed in the web browser. For example, if a user highlights text, for example, by holding down the left mouse button and traversing a portion of text within a web page, the highlighted portion can be automatically copied and used as the keyword information when the initialize search button is selected. These keywords are transferred, via link 50, and I/O interface 130, with the aid of controller 110 and memory 120, to the query development circuit 150, (Pages 3, 1st col., lines 23-36) as step of ***identifying user-input parameters corresponding to the search request.*** The query development circuit 150 performs a number of tasks. First, the query development circuit 150 receives the one or more keywords from the user input device 180 and stores them in the memory 120. Additionally, the query development circuit 150 communicates with the browser interface 140 to determine the current virtual location, or context, of the user within the distributed network.

Alternatively, the context information can be forwarded directly with the one or more keywords. For example, as previously discussed, the keyword entry dialog box can also have a portion that allows entry of the context information for the search. Thus, this context information could include, but is not limited to, a Uniform Resource Locator (URL), an Internet Protocol address (IP address), a File Transfer Protocol address (FTP address), a directory, a domain name, a universal resource name, or the like. Having the context and keyword information, the query development circuit 150 initiates the search. In particular, the query development circuit assembles two different queries, which are submitted, to the search server 300. The first query is a crawl search. The crawl search comprises the context information as well as the keyword information entered by the user or detected in cooperation with the browser interface 140 and the user input device. As previously discussed, this context information can correspond to the URL of, for example, the web page at which the user requested the search services, (Pages 3, 1st col., lines 53-65) as step of identifying user-input parameters corresponding to the search request, (Pages 3, 1st col., lines 37-65) as step ***of identifying user context parameter, corresponding to the search request, that represent a context of the user and comparing both the user input parameters and the user context parameters to data describing content.*** The combination of the keyword and context information is then submitted, via link 50 and the network 200, to the search server 300. The search server 300 receives the query and context, via I/O interface 330, in the query management circuit 350. The query management circuit 350 forwards the query and context information to the crawl search

management circuit 360. The crawl search management circuit analyzes the received keywords and context information. In accordance with the context information, the crawl search management circuit 360 determines the crawl boundaries corresponding to the context information. These crawl boundaries regulate the breadth of the crawl search within the distributed network, (Pages 3, 2nd col., lines 36-51) as step of ***identifying content, based at least in part on the comparing, that matches both the user input parameters and the user context parameters.***

As to claim 53, wherein the context of the user comprises the user's current context at the time of activating the search request, (Pages 3, 2nd col., lines 36-51).

As to claim 54, wherein the context of the user comprises the user's current context at the time of generating the search request, (Pages 3, 2nd col., lines 36-51).

As to claim 55, wherein the data comprises a plurality of product characterizations, (Pages 4, 1st col., lines 17-25).

5. Claims 61-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Abbott, III et al. (US 6549915B2).

With respect to claim 61, Abbott discloses a characterization module configured to characterize a user's context, (col. 17, lines 21-39); and a search criteria generator

configured to generate search criteria corresponding to a user search request, wherein the search criteria is coupled to receive a user search request via one or more input devices, and further coupled to receive the user's context from the characterization module, (col. 17, lines 21-39).

As to claim 62, Abbott further discloses wherein the characterization module is configured to characterize the user's content based on input received from a plurality of sensors, wherein the plurality of sensors sense one or more of: the user's physical environment, the user's mental environment, the user's computing environment, and the user's data environment, (col. 17, lines 21-39).

As to claim 63, Abbott further discloses wherein the user's context comprises physical environment information pertaining to one or more of: the user's present location and the current time, (col. 17, lines 21-39).

As to claim 64, Abbott further discloses wherein the user's context comprises mental environment information pertaining to one or more of: the user's likely intentions, the user's preference, and the user's current attention, (col. 8, lines 20-46).

As to claim 65, Abbott further discloses wherein the user's context comprises computing environment information pertaining to one or more: computing capabilities of

a client computer being used by the user, available I/O devices of the client, processing capabilities of the client, and available storage space on the client, (col. 18, lines 21-36).

As to claim 66, Abbott further discloses wherein the user's context comprises data environment information pertaining to data and software resources on a client computer being used by the user, (col. 18, line 21-36).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang Baldonado (US 2002/0147880A1) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kravets et al. (US 6363377B1).

As to claim 8, Baldonado discloses in FIG. 4, the results pages 610, displayed, for example, within a browser interface 600, comprises a location for displaying the one or more entered keywords 540, the context information 515, e.g., the URL, an index search results portion 640, a crawl search results portion 650, one or more index search results 645, one or more crawl search result list 655, a search button 670 and a stop search button 680, (Pages 5, 2nd col., lines 38-48). However, Baldonado does not

disclose ***filtering, after receiving the search results, the search results based on the appropriateness of the search results; and presenting the search results to the user comprises presenting only appropriate search results to the user.*** Kravets discloses a desirable to filter the output of search engines, to prevent information from being displayed. If the search engine returns a large set of URLs, one may want to restrict it to pages that were visited only last week, or to pages that have been book marked, or to a smaller set of URLs that are relevant, based upon some specific criteria not previously captured in the search engine index. Sometimes it is desirable to filter the output to exclude pages to which a user should not have access. Referring to FIG. 2B, there is shown the details of the dynamic filter processor in step 24 of FIG. 1A. The dynamic filtering, based on a dynamic set of URLs, is used to restrict the results of a search query. In the exemplary embodiment of the invention, the dynamic set of URLs can be determined explicitly by the user from a user profile as shown in step 57 of FIG. 2B, or, in general, from information stored in other information management systems. Once the profile is accessed, then in step 59 the URL's may be filtered and the results are displayed in step 61, (col. 7, lines 65-col. 8, lines 16) as step of ***filtering, after receiving the search results, the search results based on the appropriateness of the search results; and presenting the search results to the user comprises presenting only appropriate search results to the user.*** Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the search result in Baldonado by including filtering, after receiving the search results, the search results based on the appropriateness of the search

results; and presenting the search results to the user comprises presenting only appropriate search results to the user as taught by Kravets. In doing so, the user can organizing the results of a search and save a lot of the user time, (col. 1, lines 15-16).

8. Claim 13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang Baldonado (US 2002/0147880A1) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Sharp et al. (US 6263317B1).

As to claim 13, Baldonado discloses in FIG. 4, the results pages 610, displayed, for example, within a browser interface 600, comprises a location for displaying the one or more entered keywords 540, the context information 515, e.g., the URL, an index search results portion 640, a crawl search results portion 650, one or more index search results 645, one or more crawl search result list 655, a search button 670 and a stop search button 680, (Pages 5, 2nd col., lines 38-48). However, Baldonado does not disclose ***wherein the search criteria is to be submitted to one or more search components via a network, and wherein the product is to be returned to the user via shipping external the network.*** Sharp discloses using computer system 100, a customer using client computer 120 can access an e-commerce website hosted on server computer 110 via computer network 150. The e-commerce website allows the customer to select among a large assortment of products from different manufacturers. In some embodiments, the products sold through the e-commerce website relate to a particular market segment, such as extreme sports equipment and apparel. The e-

commerce website allows the customer to place multiple orders for multiple products and/or services in a single session. The order includes both information about the product, such as manufacturer, model number and selected options, as well as information about the customer, such as name, address and credit information. Once the customer has entered and confirmed the order, a computer program executed on server computer 110 processes the order. The computer program allocates the order to a supplier of the product according to a distribution channel conflict resolution scheme specified by the manufacturer of the product. According to the distribution channel conflict resolution scheme, an order can be allocated either to the owner of the website, or to a distributor selected according to the protocol, or to the distributor for direct distribution. The term distributor is used herein to include distributors of a product at all levels in the distribution chain, including retailers. If the order is allocated to either a distributor or to the manufacturer, the order is transmitted to a distributor computer 140 or to a manufacturer computer 130 via a secure extranet communication link established over computer network 150. In order to be able to fill orders, the owner of the website may maintain a warehouse of products by various manufacturers, where the products are held on consignment on behalf of the manufacturer, (col. 3, lines 6-39) as step of ***wherein the search criteria is to be submitted to one or more search components via a network.*** Order processing page 600 is illustrated in FIG. 6. Order processing page 600 includes a general order information area 610, listing information such as the order ID, the date the order was entered and last modified, the order total and shipping information. In addition, order

processing page 600 includes billing address 620, shipping address 630, e-mail addresses 640, credit card information 650 and item list 660. Item list 660, in turn, contains information for each of the items in the order displayed in order processing page 600. The operator can control the order displayed in order processing page 600 by entering a new order ID in order ID field 602 and then pressing search button 604. Item list 660 contains a product ID button 665 and a status 685 for each item in the order. The operator can cause product detail page 1300 (FIG. 13) to be displayed by pressing product ID button 665, (col. 6, lines 36-51) as step of ***wherein the product is to be returned to the user via shipping external the network.*** Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Baldonado by including wherein the search criteria is to be submitted to one or more search components via a network, and wherein the product is to be returned to the user via shipping external the network as taught by Sharp. By doing so, the e-commerce websites are more convenient and less time-consuming shopping, (col. 1, lines 33-34).

9. Claims 23-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolfe et al. (US 6282517 B1) in view of Colosso (US 6169976B1).

With respect to claim 23, Wolfe discloses receive a request to generate a product interest characterization, (col. 15, lines 34-37); receiving one or more pieces of data corresponding to the request, (col. 16, lines 45-53); create a new product interest

characterization in response to the request, (col. 16, lines 45-col. 7, lines 5); populate one or more fields of the product interest characterization with the one or more piece of data, (col. 16, lines 45-col. 7, lines 5).

Wolfe does in FIG. 13, the new vehicle purchase requests field 310 may point to a list of new vehicle purchase request records. The current new vehicle purchase request record may be added to the existing list of new vehicle purchase request records. The current new vehicle purchase request record is immediately displayed in the list of purchase requests as generally illustrated at 1702 in FIG. 17., (col. 16, lines 19-31). However, Wolfe does not explicitly teach ***populate one or more additional fields of the product interest characterization with data representing context information for a user associated with the request.*** Colosso discloses at step 742, if at step 742 the key site manager 316 determines that the customer has not previously activated the licensed product, then at step 746 the customer is requested to enter additional information. In certain embodiments, the web application 312 generates a web page having a fill-in form that contains fields for which additional information is requested from the customer 302. For example, the fill-in form may request the customer 302 to supply the following additional information: (1) name of the customer's contact person or administrator; (2) customer address; (3) phone number; (4) fax number; (5) contacts within the company (i.e. name & email address); and (6) whether the customer wants to receive notices and update information about the licensed product. After filling in the foregoing information in the fields of the fill-in form, the customer 302 submits the filled-in form to the web application 312.

In certain embodiments, this information is optional, such that the customer may choose to supply some, all or even none of the requested information, (col. 14, lines 32-55) as step of ***populate one or more additional fields of the product interest characterization with data representing context information for a user associated with the request.*** Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wolfe by including ***populate one or more additional fields of the product interest characterization with data representing context information for a user associated with the request*** in order to prevent unauthorized use or reproduction of the production.

As to claim 24, Wolfe further discloses wherein the user associated with the request is the user that imitated the request, (col. 15, lines 32-46).

As to claim 25, Wolfe further discloses wherein the context information comprises current context information, (col. 15, lines 32-46).

As to claim 26, Wolfe further discloses where receiving one or more pieces of data corresponding to the request comprises receiving, from the user, the one or more pieces of data corresponding to the request, (col. 16, lines 45-52).

As to claim 27, Wolfe further discloses the user's physical environment, the user's mental environment, the user's computing environment, and the user's data environment,(col. 10, lines 3-14).

As to claim 28, Wolfe further discloses the user's present location and the current time, (col. 11, lines 9-24).

As to claim 29, Wolfe further discloses mental environment information pertaining to one or more of the: the user's likely intentions, the user's preferences, and the user's current attention, (col. 16, lines 44-53).

As to claim 30, Wolfe further discloses computing capabilities of a client computer being used by the user, available I/O device of the client, processing capabilities of the client, and available storage space on the client, (col. 15, lines 47-63).

As to claim 31, Wolfe further discloses wherein the context information comprises data environment information pertaining to data and software resource on a client computer being used by the user, (col. 15, lines 33-46).

As to claim 32, Wolfe further discloses display a form to the user for entry of parameters of the search request, (col. 16, lines 45-52).

As to claim 33, Wolfe does in FIG. 13, the new vehicle purchase requests field 310 may point to a list of new vehicle purchase request records. The current new vehicle purchase request record may be added to the existing list of new vehicle purchase request records. The current new vehicle purchase request record is immediately displayed in the list of purchase requests as generally illustrated at 1702 in FIG. 17., (col. 16, lines 19-31). However, Wolfe does not explicitly teach ***computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computer to not display the fields of the form that are automatically populated based on the context information.*** Colosso discloses at step 742 if at step 742 the key site manager 316 determines that the customer has not previously activated the licensed product, then at step 746 the customer is requested to enter additional information. In certain embodiments, the web application 312 generates a web page having a fill-in form that contains fields for which additional information is requested from the customer 302. For example, the fill-in form may request the customer 302 to supply the following additional information: (1) name of the customer's contact person or administrator; (2) customer address; (3) phone number; (4) fax number; (5) contacts within the company (i.e. name & email address); and (6) whether the customer wants to receive notices and update information about the licensed product. After filling in the foregoing information in the fields of the fill-in form, the customer 302 submits the filled-in form to the web application 312. In certain embodiments, this information is optional, such that the customer may choose to supply some, all or even none of the requested

information, (col. 14, lines 32-55) as step of ***computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computer to not display the fields of the form that are automatically populated based on the context information.*** Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wolfe by including ***computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computer to not display the fields of the form that are automatically populated based on the context information*** in order to prevent unauthorized use or reproduction of the production.

As to claim 34, Wolfe further discloses communicate the search criteria to one or more search components, (col. 16, lines 44-53); receive search results form at least one of the one or more search components, (col. 16, lines 53-64); and present the search result to the user, (col. 17, lines 1-5).

As to claim 35, Wolfe further discloses determine an appropriate time to present the search result, (col. 17, lines 1-5); wait unit the appropriate time to present the search result to the user, (col. 17, lines 1-5).

10. Claims 36-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolfe et al. (US 6282517B1) further in view of Pirolli et al. (US 6272507B1).

With respect to claim 36, Wolfe discloses generating search criteria based at least in pat on the current context of the user and one or more search parameters identified by the user, (col. 15, lines 33-46 and col. 16, lines 44-53); retrieving, from one or more information source, information satisfying the search criteria, (col. 16, lines 65-col. 17, lines 5).

Wolfe does in FIG. 13, the new vehicle purchase requests field 310 may point to a list of new vehicle purchase request records. The current new vehicle purchase request record may be added to the existing list of new vehicle purchase request records. The current new vehicle purchase request record is immediately displayed in the list of purchase requests as generally illustrated at 1702 in FIG. 17., (col. 16, lines 19-31). However, Wolfe does not explicitly teach ***sensing a current context of a user.*** Pirolli discloses a system for ranking the results of a search for documents from a collection of linked documents is disclosed. The ranking is based on historical patterns and information about a current context of interest of a user or group, (col. 3, lines 31-34). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wolfe by including sensing a current context of a user as taught by Pirolli in order to rank the results better, (col. 1, lines 14-15).

As to claim 37, Wolfe further discloses the user's current physical environment, the user's current mental environment, the user's current computing environment, and the user's current data environment, (col. 10, lines 3-14).

As to claim 38, Wolfe further discloses the user's current physical environment, the user's current mental environment, the user's current computing environment, and the user's current data environment, (col. 10, lines 3-14).

As to claim 39, Wolfe further discloses wherein the current context comprises physical environment information pertaining to one or more of: the user's present location and the current time, (col. 11, lines 9-24).

As to claim 40, Wolfe further discloses the user's likely intentions, the user's preferences, and the user's current attention, (col. 6, lines 4-53)

As to claim 41, Wolfe further discloses computing capabilities of a client computer being used by the user, available I/O devices of the client, processing capabilities of the client, and available storage space on the client, (col. 15, lines 47-63).

As to claim 42, Wolfe further discloses wherein the current context comprises data environment information pertaining to data and software resources on a client computer being used by the user, (col. 15, lines 33-46).

As to claim 43, Wolfe further discloses wherein the information comprises advertisements, (col. 15, lines 33-47).

As to claim 44, Wolfe further discloses wherein the information comprises production description, (col. 16, lines 65-col. 17, lines 5).

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kyahara (US 6405206B1) shows method and apparatus for searching information, and a recording medium on which is recorded an information searching program.

Schneider (US 6442549) shows method, product, and apparatus for processing reusable information.

Gao et al. (US 6490579) shows search engine system and method utilizing context of heterogeneous information resources.

Aggarwal et al. (US 6542889B1) shows method and apparatus for similarity text search based on conceptual index.

Contact Information

12. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam V Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-5: 00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for formal communications and (703) 746-7240 for informal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

13. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

TV:tv

05/30/03

SHAHID AL ALAM
PATENT EXAMINER